

~~CAB~~ Chrono

29 MAR 1983

Ex Dir Memo  
Chrono

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

[Redacted]

Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Community Information Retrieval System

1. My apologies for not responding sooner to your request for personal comments on the Information Handling Committee's (IHC) plan for developing a Community Information Retrieval System (CIRS). When [Redacted] CIA's representative to the IHC, endorsed the plan last summer, I assumed that we were committed formally.

2. I agree that CIRS is a worthwhile project and assure you that the Agency will cooperate fully in its development -- although our SAFE system does not become heavily involved until the final phase. I share your concern about the potential security hazards of access to Community-wide information files. Perhaps the best way to identify and deal with such hazards is through active participation in the CIRS Security Working Group. The same holds true for the retrieval codes and telecommunications groups. I particularly endorse the proposal to review each phase's progress before proceeding to the next phase.

3. One aspect of the CIRS plan still concerns me -- the management of the CIRS Project. I suspect that [Redacted] and others in the IC Staff would agree that they are not in the best position to manage a project of this scope. Either a single project manager should be named from one of the agencies or rotating management should be designated with each agency responsible for the phase in which that agency is most heavily involved. (For CIA, this would be Phase V starting in about 1990.) I am not wedded to this idea, but some more formal and effective management mechanism will need to be found.

4. For our part, we are already underway. [Redacted] of ODP has been named the CIA representative to CIRS, and representatives to all the CIRS working groups will be named shortly. With always a wary eye for icebergs -- full speed ahead!

[Redacted]